

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 40, 41, 45, 47, 50, 51, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60, 61, 66, 68, 69, 75, and 77 have been amended. The amendments clarify the inventive aspects of the present invention, but do not significantly alter the scope of the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that no new search is required on the part of the Examiner. Claims 40-77 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action dated May 5, 2005, Claims 40-46, 49-54, and 57-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,084,585 (Kraft). Claims 47, 55, 59-63, 65-72, and 74-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,507,854 (Dunsmoir). Claims 48 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,212,552 (Billiris). Claims 64 and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft and Dunsmoir and further in view of Billiris. Applicants reserve the right to swear behind Kraft, Dunsmoir, and Billiris. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

On April 11, 2005 Applicants submitted an affidavit regarding the definition of a ‘page layout application.’ This affidavit included evidence that ‘page layout’ refers to “the process of placing and arranging and rearranging text and graphics on the page to produce documents such as newsletters, brochures, books, etc.,” and that the “primary software programs for desktop publishing are called page layout applications.” (Taken April 11, 2005 from the About website at <http://desktoppub.about.com/cs/basic/g/pagelayout.htm>.) The Examiner does not accept this definition, but instead defines a ‘page layout application’ in Section 12 of the Office Action as “merely a page template application that allows a user to create a page by entering data into predefined fields of a template which arranges the data objects in a page.” In other words, the Examiner defines ‘page layout application’ as an application that populates predefined fields of a template. Applicants still believe that the definition submitted with the aforementioned affidavit

is accurate, but do not press the argument. Applicants are not claiming merely a ‘page layout application’ as that term is defined by the Examiner. The Examiner also, in Section 5 of the Office Action, indicated that Kraft discloses “designating a template using...” (Emphasis added). However, that is not what Applicants claim in Claim 40. Applicants claim “designing a template,” not designating a template. (Emphasis added). Applicants claim a method, system, and computer program for “designing a template,” where designing encompasses much more than simply populating a template with predefined fields or designating a template. The claims have been amended to reflect this.

Claims 41-49 depend from Claim 40. Claim 40, as amended, recites:

designing a template for a custom document that includes a changeable field, wherein the changeable field includes a name and further wherein designing the template comprises defining the changeable field;

Claims 51-57 depend from Claim 50. Claim 50, as amended, recites:

receive a changeable field within a template for a custom document, wherein the changeable field is defined by a user that designed the template and further wherein the changeable field comprises a name and a plurality of data items linked to the changeable field;

Claim 58, as amended, recites:

receive a changeable field within a template for a custom document, wherein the changeable field is defined by a user that designed the template and further wherein the changeable field comprises a name and a plurality of data items linked to the changeable field;

Claims 60-67 depend from Claim 59. Claim 59, as amended, recites:

designing a template for a custom document using an application executing at a workstation, wherein designing the template comprises defining a changeable field;

Claims 69-76 depend from Claim 68. Claim 68, as amended, recites:

receive a template for a custom document and a plurality of data items linked to a changeable field within the template, wherein the template is designed by defining the changeable field using an application executing at a workstation;

Claim 77, as amended, recites:

receive a changeable field designated by a user within a template for a custom document, wherein the template is designed by defining the changeable field using an application executing at the client computer;

Applicants respectfully submit that when combined the applied references do not disclose a method, system, or computer program for “designing a template for a custom document...wherein designing the template comprises defining the changeable field.” (Claim 40 as currently amended; emphasis added). Independent Claims 50, 58, 59, 68, and 77 all include a similar limitation.

Kraft discloses “a graphical user interface (GUI) to assist a user in completing electronic forms.” (Abstract). The GUI presents the user with a predetermined list of fields with which the user can populate the electronic form. Specifically, the “user selects a desired menu entry from a list of available menu entries, and then enters the appropriate data within the data field corresponding to the menu entry selected.” (Col. 1, line 66 – Col. 2, line 2; emphasis added). As discussed above, the Examiner defined a ‘page layout application’ as “merely a page template application that allows a user to create a page by entering data into predefined fields of a template which arranges the data objects in a page.” (Section 12 of the Office Action). The Examiner also stated in Section 12 of the Office Action that “Kraft, thus, teaches use of a “page layout application” as argued.” Applicants agree that Kraft discloses an “application that allows a user to create a page by entering data into predefined fields of a template...” (Section 12 of the Office Action; emphasis added). However, this is not what Applicants are claiming. Applicants claim “designing a template...wherein designing the template comprises defining the changeable

field.” (Claim 40 as currently amended; emphasis added). No embodiment of Kraft discloses designing a template by allowing the user to define the fields. Selecting a menu entry from a “list of available menu entries” (col. 1, line 67 – col. 2, line 1) does not allow the user to define the field, it only allows the user to select the field from a predetermined list of fields. Because at least the limitation of designing a template by defining the changeable fields is not disclosed in Kraft, Applicants respectfully submit that Kraft does not anticipate Applicants’ claimed invention.

As with the Kraft reference, Dunsmoir relates to a system of populating predefined fields of a template. More specifically, Dunsmoir discloses a method for merging timing information into a web page such that an end viewer can determine when the web page was retrieved. The Examiner, in Section 12 of the Office Action, states that “Dunsmoir discloses use of a ‘page layout application’ as argued.” Given the Examiner’s definition of ‘page layout application,’ Applicants agree that Dunsmoir discloses an “application that allows a user to create a page by entering data into predefined fields of a template.” (Section 12 of the Office Action; emphasis added). Table 1 in Dunsmoir exemplifies “predefined fields of a template” into which web page objects are merged. Nevertheless, Dunsmoir does not disclose “designing a template” by “defining the changeable field.” (Claim 40 as currently amended; emphasis added). Merging data into predefined fields of a template does not constitute defining the field. In Dunsmoir, web page objects are simply placed into predefined fields of a template, where the template also includes predefined timing fields. The fields cannot be defined or altered by a user. In fact, the purpose of the invention in Dunsmoir is to present an unaltered web page that includes timing information. Because at least the limitation of designing a template by defining the changeable fields is not disclosed in Dunsmoir, Applicants respectfully submit that Dunsmoir does not make the Applicants’ claimed invention obvious.

Billiris discloses a “messaging system..., which supports combinations of directory and mailing list addressing mechanisms.” (Abstract). Billiris does not disclose “designing a template” or “defining the changeable field.” (Claim 40 as currently amended).

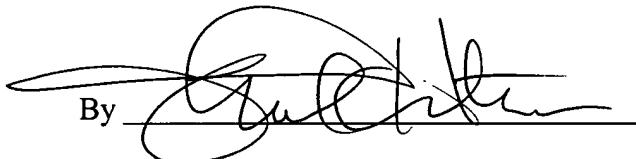
Applicants claim “designing a template for a custom document that includes a changeable field...wherein designing the template comprises defining the changeable field.” (Claim 40 as currently amended; emphasis added). Applicants respectfully assert that the combination of Kraft, Dunsmoir, and Billiris fails to disclose or teach designing a template by defining the fields. Applicants are not claiming a method, system and computer program which only allows a user to populate a template for a document. Applicants claim a system, method, and computer program which allows a user to “desig[n] a template for a custom document.” The “custom document” can be a catalog, business card, brochure, or any other type of document that the user wishes to design. The applied references do not disclose “designing a template for a custom document.” For instance, Kraft discloses populating an expense report template where the user selects, from a predetermined list, the fields of the expense report to be populated. A user of the Kraft invention is stuck with the template provided and is not able to alter or define the expense report field options or “design a template” for a different “custom document.” Similarly, Dunsmoir only discloses populating a web page template by merging existing web page data with timing information. Dunsmoir does not disclose designing a custom template, but instead discloses using one template with predetermined fields to redisplay a web page with timing information. Further, Dunsmoir can only be used with respect to web page merging; “custom document[s]” cannot be created using the system disclosed in Dunsmoir. Billiris discloses a messaging system for use in composing mailing lists, but does not disclose designing a template for a custom document.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references only disclose template population, and that none of the references disclose designing a template for a custom document by defining the changeable fields of the template. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 40, 50, 58, 59, 68, and 77 are allowable for at least the reasons outlined in this response. Further, applicants also respectfully submit that dependent claims 41-49, 51-57, 60-67, and 69-76 are allowable for the same reasons. As a result, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2350.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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